

lapsus that appear in the treatment of the genus *Myophonus* in Volume X of Peters' *Check-list of Birds of the World*.

On page 142, the correct citation for *Myophonus caeruleus temminckii* would read: *Myophonus Temminckii* Vigors, 1832 (Mch. 2), Proc. Comm. Sci. Corr. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 1, p. 171—Himalaya. (G. R. Gray was, in 1822, a youth of fourteen!)

It is, however, with the footnote on page 140 that I wish more particularly to deal.

The first citation for Genus *Myophonus* Temminck should read: *Myophonus* Temminck, 1822 (Dec.) Pl. col., livr. 29, pl. 170 and text. Type, by monotypy, *Myophonus metallicus* Temminck. (The plate is lettered *Myophone luisant*).

The name next appears in literature as *Myiophonus* Boie, 1829, Isis, p. 1029, *lapsus* or *nomen emendatum*.

Its third guise, accompanied by a proper generic diagnosis, is *Myiophoneus* Temminck, 1832 (*post* Mch. 2), Pl. col., livr. 29, p. [211].

At this third appearance the genus is expanded to include, in addition to *M. flavirostris* (Horsfield), 1821 (May), with which *M. metallicus* Temminck, 1822, is now synonymized; also:—

(1) *Myophonus Horsfieldii* Vigors, 1831 (Mch. 2), corrupted to *Myiophoneus* [*sic*] *Horsfeldii* [*sic*];

(2) *Myophonus Temminckii* Vigors, 1832 (Mch. 2), changed to *Myiophoneus* [*sic*] *Temminckii*;

(3) *Pitta glaucina* Temminck, 1823 (Apr.), here listed as *Myiophoneus* [*sic*] *glaucus* and cited from pl. 190 [*sic*] (correctly, pl. 194).

The footnote on page 140 of Peters' Volume X states that the generic name should be "*Myiophoneus*," because it so appears, emendated from *Myophonus*, on the page (properly *sheet*) preceding the description of *Myophonus metallicus* Temminck, 1822.

Since, however, that preceding sheet cites species named in April 1823, on 2nd March 1831, and on 2nd March 1832, it could not have been issued *prior* to 2nd March 1832 (as a replacement of an earlier and discarded sheet?). There is then no such name as "*Myiophoneus* Temminck and Laugier, 1822", as supposed by Delacour (Auk, 1942, p. 246) and by the revisor of the whistling-thrushes for Peters' *Check-list*.

To complete the confusion, we find Temminck using, in the *Tableau Méthodique* of January 1839, which summarizes the *Planches Coloriées*, both *Myophonus* and *Myiophoneus* on the same page 15!

If stability in ornithological nomenclature be considered desirable, why are we asked to use a so-called emendation (in fact a wholly new generic name!) that *first* appeared in print some ten years *after* the simple, easily spelled and easily pronounced *Myophonus* Temminck of 1822?

The white collar of the Russian Brent Goose

by JAMES M. AND JEFFERY G. HARRISON

Received 21st July, 1964

We are much indebted to Mr. Jack Williams of Tunstead, Norfolk, for allowing us to study a remarkable example of the Russian Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* Linnaeus, which he has kept in captivity for a

number of years, the bird originally being caught on the north Norfolk coast.

The three photographs illustrating this note show on the left, a typical adult Russian Brent; in the centre the bird in question, and on the right, an example of the Pacific Brent *B. b. orientalis* Tugarinov. All three birds are in Mr. Williams' collection.



Russian Brent

Variant Russian Brent

Pacific Brent

Photographs: Pamela Harrison

It will be seen that the degree of white collar illustrates a cline of increasing whiteness from left to right, or west to east. It is possible that the centre bird comes from a breeding area in the extreme eastern range of *B. b. bernicla*, for the white collar is considerably more extensive than usual, being broader and almost but not quite meeting anteriorly. It is also more extensive posteriorly.

However, if this was merely an example of clinal variation, it is strange that there is no indication of this in the flank markings, which are quite typical of *B. b. bernicla*. It is more likely that this is another variant character, similar to the black V marking found occasionally on the chins of European Eiders *Somateria mollissima mollissima* (Linnaeus) and constantly in the Pacific Eider *S. m. v-nigra* Gray.

In its characters, this Brent from north Norfolk might be mistaken for the mysterious Lawrence's Brent *B. b. nigricans* Lawrence, which according to Delacour (1954) is thought to nest in the north-east of Hudson Bay and is possibly nearing extinction.

We are very grateful to Mr. Williams; also to Dr. Pamela Harrison for the photographs.

Reference:

Delacour, J. (1954). *The Waterfowl of the World*, vol. 1, London.

A new species of tinker-barbet from Northern Rhodesia

by C. W. BENSON and M. P. STUART IRWIN

Received 20th October, 1964

During a recent collecting trip to the North Western Province of Northern Rhodesia, made under the auspices of Mr. C. W. Benson of the